

Big



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/629,846 | 07/30/2003 | James Thomas Edward McDonnell | 1509-431 | 6136 |

22879 7590 02/22/2006

HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

BALAOING, ARIEL A

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

2683

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/629,846

Applicant(s)

MCDONNELL ET AL.

Examiner

Ariel Balaoing

Art Unit

2683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-21, 23-31, 33 and 34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-21, 23-31, 33 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on January 25, 2006.

Claims 1-5, 7-21, 23-31, and 33 are pending

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/25/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 25 and 26 are dependent on claim 22, which is a cancelled claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Art Unit: 2683

5. Claims 1, 2, 11-19, 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GUNNARSSON et al (US 2003/0118015).

Regarding claim 1, GUNNARSSON discloses a communication system comprising a notifier being arranged to locate a mobile unit and to transmit a notification to said mobile unit (60-Figure 1-3) via a first telecommunication network (10-Figure 1-3) when said mobile unit moves within the vicinity of an access node of a second network [WLAN] (20-Figure 1-3) (abstract; paragraph 5, 18), the second network having a known range (paragraph 22, 23; the known service area of the WLAN is stored within a database), the notifier being arranged to initially transmit the notification to the mobile unit when the mobile unit moves into a region beyond the known range by a predetermined distance (paragraph 21-23; an accurate position of the mobile device is obtained, when the mobile device is within a predetermined range of the WLAN (measured from the center of the WLAN service area), notification is sent).

Regarding claim 2, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein said notification comprises a voice message or text message (paragraph 22).

Regarding claim 11, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein said mobile unit is capable of communicating with both said first and said second networks, said mobile unit being capable of communicating with said second network only when said mobile unit is within the known range of said second network (paragraph 22-24, 28).

Regarding claim 12, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses further comprising a further mobile unit [wireless computing device] (70-Figure 2, 3) for communication with said second network, said further mobile unit being capable of communication with said second network only when said mobile unit is within the known range of said second network (paragraph 18, 28).

Regarding claim 13, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein the rate of communication with said second network is at a higher data rate than the rate of communication with said first network (paragraphs 14, 17; WLAN is preferred for high-bandwidth data transfers. It is also known the art that local area networks in general have higher data transfer rates then mobile communication networks).

Regarding claim 14, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein the location of the access node is held on a storage medium [database] in communication with said first network (paragraph 22).

Regarding claim 15, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein said first network comprises a cellular communication system (abstract; paragraph 12, 20).

Regarding claim 16, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein said second network comprises a wireless LAN or a 3G pico-cell (abstract; paragraph 14, 16).

Regarding claim 17, GUNNARSSON discloses a telecommunication system comprising: at least one base station (14-Figure 1) for communication with at least one mobile communication device via a first wireless telecommunication network (paragraph 12); means for determining the location of the mobile communication unit (paragraph 18, 21); means for accessing a data storage device having the location of at least one access point of a second wireless telecommunication network [WLAN] stored thereon, the second network having a known range (paragraph 22, 23; the known service area of the WLAN is stored in a database); and means for causing a notification to be transmitted to the mobile communication device when the mobile communication device first comes within a predetermined distance beyond the known range of the second wireless telecommunication network (paragraphs 18, 22-24, 28; an accurate position of the mobile device is obtained, when the mobile device is within a predetermined range of the WLAN (measured from the center of the WLAN service area), notification is sent).

Regarding claim 18, GUNNARSSON further discloses a method of notifying a mobile device user to the presence of a network access node (abstract), the mobile device being in communication with a first network (10-Figure 1-3) and capable of moving into a known range of a second network (paragraph 21-23), the method comprising: determining the location of said mobile device (paragraph 18, 21); and transmitting a notification from said first network to said mobile device when said mobile device initially moves into a region that is a predetermined distance beyond the known range of the second network (paragraph 18, 21-23, 28; an accurate position of the mobile device is obtained, when the mobile device is within a predetermined range of the WLAN (measured from the center of the WLAN service area), notification is sent).

Regarding claim 19, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein said notification includes a voice message or text message (paragraph 22).

Regarding claim 27, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein the location of said at least one network external access node is held in a storage medium, said storage medium being in communication with said first network (paragraph 22).

Regarding claim 28, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein communication with said second network is achieved using said mobile device when said mobile device is within the known range of said second network (paragraph 21-24).

Regarding claim 29, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein communication with said second network is achieved using a further mobile device when said further mobile device is within the known range of said second network (paragraph 18, 22, 23, 28).

Regarding claim 30, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein communication with said second network occurs at a greater data rate than communication with said first network (paragraphs 14, 17; WLAN is preferred for high-bandwidth data transfers. It is also known the art that local area networks in general have higher data transfer rates then mobile communication networks).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 2683

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

7. Claims 7, 8, 10, 23, 24, 26, 33, 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GUNNARSSON et al (US 2003/0118015) in view of JOKINEN et al (US 2002/0095333 A1).

Regarding claims 7 and 23, see the rejections of the parent claims (claims 33 and 34 respectively) concerning the subject matter these claims are dependant upon. However, GUNNARSSON does not disclose wherein said electronic token has a redeemable monetary value. JOKINEN discloses wherein said electronic token has a redeemable monetary value (paragraph 38, 55, 57; the coupon is redeemable for a discounted amount on goods and services).

Regarding claims 8 and 24, see the rejections of the parent claims (claims 7 and 23 respectively) concerning the subject matter these claims are dependant upon. Although GUNNARSSON discloses that the access point can be placed at retail outlets (paragraph 15), GUNNARSSON does not disclose wherein said access node is located at a retail outlet at which said electronic token is redeemable. JOKINEN discloses wherein said access node is located at a retail outlet at which said electronic token is redeemable (paragraph 57).

Regarding claim 10 and 26 (claims 33 and 34 respectively), see the rejection of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, GUNNARSSON does not disclose wherein said electronic token is transmitted only when said mobile unit is in communication with said second network. JOKINEN

Art Unit: 2683

discloses wherein said electronic token is transmitted only when said mobile unit is in communication with said second network (paragraph 38).

Regarding claim 31, GUNNARSSON discloses A method of notifying a mobile communication device user to the proximity of the user to a transceiver having a known range (abstract, paragraph 18, 21-23), the method comprising transmitting a notification to the mobile communication device via a first telecommunication network when that mobile communication device first moves within a predetermined distance beyond the known range of the transceiver (paragraphs 18, 21-23, 28), a wireless communication system having one or more access nodes to the wireless communication system, the method further comprising providing details of the location of said one or more access nodes to a further telecommunication network (abstract, paragraphs 22, 23, 28).

However GUNNARSSON does not disclose wherein the notification comprises a reward redeemable at a retail outlet located in the immediate vicinity of the transceiver.

JOKINEN discloses wherein the notification comprises a reward redeemable at a retail outlet located at the network point (paragraphs 38, 55, 57). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify GUNNARSSON to include the electronic coupons issuance of JOKINEN, as both systems relate to presence notification within a wireless communication network. This is beneficial in that it allows the system of GUNNARSSON the ability to advertise discounted services or goods at a retail outlet.

Regarding claim 33, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, GUNNARSSON does not disclose wherein said notification comprises an electronic token. JOKINEN discloses wherein

Art Unit: 2683

said notification comprises an electronic token [e-coupon] (paragraphs 38, 55, 57).

Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify GUNNARSSON to transmit a redeemable coupon to a mobile device during notification of WLAN service as JOKINEN and GUNNARSSON disclose the transmittal of information regarding services at an access point between a wireless local area network and a mobile device. This is beneficial in that it allows the system of GUNNARSSON the ability to advertise discounted services or goods at a retail outlet.

Regarding claim 34, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependant upon. However, GUNNARSSON does not disclose wherein said notification signal comprises an electronic token. JOKINEN discloses wherein said notification comprises an electronic token [e-coupon] (paragraphs 38, 55, 57). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify GUNNARSSON to transmit a redeemable coupon to a mobile device during notification of WLAN service as JOKINEN and GUNNARSSON disclose the transmittal of information regarding services at an access point between a wireless local area network and a mobile device. This is beneficial in that it allows the system of GUNNARSSON the ability to advertise discounted services or goods at a retail outlet.

8. Claims 3-5, 20, 21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GUNNARSSON et al (US 2003/0118015) in view of JUURIKKO (US 2003/0003868 A1).

Regarding claims 3 and 20, see the rejections of the parent claims concerning the subject matter these claims are dependant upon. However, GUNNARSSON does

Art Unit: 2683

not disclose wherein said notification includes the location of said access node.

JUURIKKO discloses wherein said notification includes the location of said access node (paragraph 23). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the paging of GUNNARSSON to include locations and directions to the wireless access points, as taught by JUURIKKO as both disclosures deal with sending notification to a mobile device in regards to locating an access point. This is beneficial in that it allows GUNNARSSON the ability to quickly move towards the access point to achieve greater signal strength and network reliability with the WLAN.

Regarding claim 4, see the rejections of the parent claims concerning the subject matter these claims are dependant upon. GUNNARSSON further discloses wherein the notification further comprises one or more from the list including the data transfer rate supported by the access node, details of the transmission coverage provided by the access node, the cost to a user of utilizing the access node and details of goods and services available at the access node (paragraph 22).

Regarding claims 5 and 21, see the rejections of the parent claims concerning the subject matter these claims are dependant upon. However, GUNNARSSON does not disclose wherein said notification includes directions to said access node.

JUURIKKO discloses wherein said notification contains directions to said access node (paragraph 23). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the paging of GUNNARSSON to include locations and directions to the wireless access points, as taught by JUURIKKO as both disclosures deal with sending notification to a mobile device in regards to

Art Unit: 2683

locating an access point. This is beneficial in that it allows GUNNARSSON the ability to quickly move towards the access point to achieve greater signal strength and network reliability with the WLAN.

9. Claims 9 and 25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GUNNARSSON et al (US 2003/0118015) in view of JOKINEN et al (US 2002/0095333 A1) as applied to the parent claims above, and further in view of KAMINKOW et al (US 2003/0036425 A1).

Regarding claims 9 and 25, see the rejections of the parent claims concerning the subject matter these claims are dependant upon. However, the combination of GUNNARSSON and JOKINEN does not disclose wherein said electronic token comprises a gaming credit. KAMINKOW discloses wherein said electronic token comprises a gaming credit (paragraph 64). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of GUNNARSSON and JOKINEN to include the transmission of gaming credits during the notification of a WLAN as the systems disclose a method for transmitting coupons for location dependant services. This is beneficial in that it allows the combination of GUNNARSSON and JOKINEN the ability to lure customers to a gaming establishment using the notification of a WLAN in the vicinity.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ariel Balaoing whose telephone number is (571) 272-7317. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 AM.

Art Unit: 2683

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, George Eng can be reached on (571) 272-7495. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ariel Balaoing
Art Unit 2683

AB


GEORGE ENG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER